

Amendments to the Claims

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (New) A method of manufacturing a granulated body for absorbing excrement of animals, comprising:

pulverizing dry bamboo to obtain dry bamboo fibers;

pulverizing paper to obtain paper pulp fibers;

mixing the dry bamboo fibers with the paper pulp fibers while adding moisture so that the moisture is absorbed by the dry bamboo fibers, to thereby form a resultant mixture;

granulating the resultant mixture to form a wet granulated body; and

creating externally-opening pores in said body by blowing hot air to said body such that the hot air penetrates said body and causes moisture in said body to transpire outwardly from said body so as to form transpiring paths that constitute said externally-opening pores.

6. (New) A method of manufacturing a granulated body for absorbing excrement of animals, comprising:

pulverizing dry bamboo to obtain dry bamboo fibers and providing the dry bamboo fibers as a chief material;

adding moisture to the dry bamboo fibers so that the moisture is absorbed by the dry bamboo fibers, to thereby form a resultant;

granulating the resultant to form a wet granulated body; and

creating externally-opening pores in said body by blowing hot air to said body such that the hot air penetrates said body and causes moisture in said body to transpire outwardly from said body so as to form transpiring paths that constitute said externally-opening pores.

7. (New) A method of manufacturing a granulated body for absorbing excrement of animals, comprising:

pulverizing dry bamboo to obtain dry bamboo fibers;

pulverizing paper to obtain paper pulp fibers;
providing the dry bamboo fibers and the paper pulp fibers as chief materials;
combining a water-sensitive coagulant powder together with the dry bamboo fibers and the paper pulp fibers and admixing the water-sensitive coagulant powder, the dry bamboo fibers and the paper pulp fibers in a non-hydraulic state, to thereby form a resultant mixture; and
compression-molding the resultant mixture to form a granulated body having a fixed shape with a porous structure.

8. (New) A method of manufacturing a granulated body for absorbing excrement of animals, comprising:

pulverizing dry bamboo to obtain dry bamboo fibers, and providing the dry bamboo fibers as a chief material;

combining a water-sensitive coagulant powder together with the dry bamboo fibers and admixing the water-sensitive coagulant powder and the dry bamboo fibers in a non-hydraulic state, to thereby form a resultant mixture; and

compression-molding the resultant mixture to form a granulated body having a fixed shape with a porous structure.